



CALGARY WEEKLY NEWSCASTS LESSON PLAN OCTOBER 26, 2015

Newscasts are current news stories read at a slower pace than you might hear on the radio. These are prepared by CBC news editor Natasha Frakes.

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase awareness of grammatical structures and functional language
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide a user-friendly, self-study tool for learners, as well as, an ESL classroom resource for instructors

Contents:

Three news stories are featured in each weekly lesson plan. Each lesson contains helpful vocabulary explanations and listening comprehension activities. At the end of each lesson you will find a complete transcript and an answer key. This lesson plan is geared towards learners at an intermediate language level (i.e. Canadian Language Benchmarks 4-5 or equivalent).



Lesson Plan prepared by Deidre Lake, Communication4Integration Inc.

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NEWS CAST 1

JUSTIN TRUDEAU WILL SOON RETURN TO HIS CHILDHOOD HOME AT 24 SUSSEX DRIVE



Photo source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/justin-trudeau-family-1.3281191>

GENERAL WARM-UP ACTIVITY

What do you know about our new Prime Minister Justin Trudeau? What do the pictures above show? Read the title of this news cast. What information do you think you might hear in the news story?

PREDICTING CONTENT

Write your answers to the questions above in the space provided below.

LISTENING

Complete the listening activities below in order.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1: LISTENING FOR OVERALL COMPREHENSION

First, listen to the **first** news story for overall comprehension. Take notes to assist you.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2: LISTENING FOR SPECIFIC VOCABULARY

Now listen to the **first** news story for a second time. Fill in the blanks.

Justin Pierre James Trudeau was _____ on December 25th, 1971, in Ottawa. His _____ Pierre Elliot Trudeau, was partway through his term as prime minister and had _____ Justin's mother, Margaret, earlier that year. Margaret and Pierre Trudeau had two other _____ before separating in 1977.

At 43, Trudeau will be the second _____ prime minister in Canadian history, after Joe Clark, who was 39, when he toppled Pierre Trudeau in 1979.

When Trudeau returns to 24 Sussex Drive, the prime minister's official _____ will again be home to three young children.

(See the answer key for answers)

LISTENING ACTIVITY 3: CHECKING FOR COMPREHENSION

Instructions: Answer the questions below.

1. Justin Trudeau has two middle names – Pierre and James. It is common for your middle name(s) to be names of someone in your family. Based on the information provided, where does one of his middle names come from?
2. What holiday was Justin born on?
 - a) Thanksgiving Day
 - b) Remembrance Day
 - c) Christmas Day
3. What year did Margaret and Pierre part ways?
4. Who was the youngest Prime Minister in Canada?
5. **Toppled** above means: a) rolled around b) fell over c) defeated
6. What is the significance of 24 Sussex Drive?

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

What do you think of the outcome of the last election?

NEWSCAST 2

CALGARY'S 17TH AVENUE FACES MASSIVE TRAFFIC DISRUPTIONS AHEAD



Photo Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/calgary-red-mile-makeover-1.3279753>

GENERAL WARM-UP ACTIVITY

Look at the photograph. What differences do you see? Is there much traffic in the photo? Why is this avenue going to have traffic in the future?

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1: LISTENING FOR COMPREHENSION

First, listen to the **second** news story for overall comprehension. There are many new words and expressions used in this news story that may be difficult to understand. Take notes to assist you.

VOCABULARY

Now complete the vocabulary activity below before listening to the news story again.

VOCABULARY BUILDING ACTIVITY 1: CREATING AWARENESS

Instructions: Look at the words below. Circle the words you do not know.

| | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|----------|--------------|------------|
| to face | massive | traffic | to strip | to rebuild |
| residents | in advance | sidewalk | impact | wider |
| pedestrians | construction | concern | compensation | urban |

VOCABULARY BUILDING ACTIVITY 2: DEVELOPING KNOWLEDGE

Instructions: Match the words with the definitions provided.

| Answer | Word | Definition |
|--------|------------------|--|
| | 1. to face | A. vehicles; cars; congestion |
| | 2. massive | B. reconstruct; renovate; remodel |
| | 3. traffic | C. walkway; pathway; pedway |
| | 4. to strip | D. person on foot; walker; foot traffic |
| | 5. to rebuild | E. worry; unease; anxiety |
| | 6. residents | F. beforehand; ahead of time; previously |
| | 7. in advance | G. encounter; accept; deal with |
| | 8. sidewalk | H. building; assembly; creation |
| | 9. impact | I. citizens; homeowners; tenants |
| | 10. wider | J. payment; remuneration; money |
| | 11. pedestrians | K. huge; enormous; large |
| | 12. construction | L. broad; spread out; spacious |
| | 13. concern | M. remove; leave bare; empty |
| | 14. compensation | N. inner-city; downtown; city |
| | 15. urban | O. affect; influence; have an effect on |

(See the answer key for answers)

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2: LISTENING AGAIN

Now that you've completed the vocabulary activities, listen to the news story again. It should be easier to follow.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 3: LISTENING FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES

Now listen to the news story for a third time. Fill in the blanks with the word that you hear.

The city plans to _____ 17th Avenue between Macleod Trail and 14th Street SW and _____ it. The city is holding information sessions for _____ in advance of planned paving and sidewalk work.

The project will also include improved lighting and _____ sidewalks. The construction phase will _____ pedestrians and drivers. It is a concern for some of the businesses on the strip as there will not be any _____.

The _____ is one of Calgary's most visited _____ areas, with pedestrians and cars. It is also the party place after the Flames win during the _____.

Construction is _____ to begin in the spring of 2016 and wrap up in late 2017.

NEWSCAST 3

CANCER PATIENT WAITS MONTHS DUE TO LACK OF RADIOACTIVE DYE



Photo Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/calgary-cancer-patients-facing-ongoing-delays-with-scans-1.3281270>

GENERAL WARM-UP ACTIVITY

What do you think of the Canadian healthcare system in general? What do you think of wait times? Describe your experiences with the system.

VOCABULARY

Complete the vocabulary activity below before listening to the news story.

VOCABULARY BUILDING ACTIVITY 1: CREATING AWARENESS

Instructions: Look at the words below. Circle the words you do not know.

cancer chemotherapy scans postponed radioactive

If you are uncertain about the meaning of the words above, look them up in a dictionary before listening to the news story.

LISTENING

Complete the listening activities below in order.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1: LISTENING FOR COMPREHENSION

Listen to the **third** news story for overall comprehension without taking notes.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2: CHECKING FOR COMPREHENSION

Instructions: Answer the questions below.

1. How long has this woman waited to find out whether or not she requires more chemotherapy?
2. Why has she had to wait?
3. What is the purpose of the scan?
4. How many times was her appointment delayed?
5. According to Alberta Health Services, how long has the machine been broken?
6. In the meantime, where is Alberta Health Services getting the product from?

LANGUAGE FOCUS: EXPRESSING SYMPATHY

When someone has been diagnosed with cancer, it is difficult to know what to say. If English is not your first language, it is even more difficult to know what to say. It is common for people to send cards and/or flowers to express their sympathy.

Below are some expressions that can be used to express sympathy and their meaning:

| | |
|---|---|
| I'm so sorry to hear what you are going through. | A short and simple expression that is commonly used to express empathy. |
| You are in my thoughts. You are in my prayers. I'm thinking of you. I'm praying for you. | This lets the person know that they are not alone and that you are thinking of them. |
| I cannot imagine what you are going through at this time. | This acknowledges the difficulty of the situation. |
| If there is anything I can do for you, please do not hesitate to ask. | This lets the person know that you are available to assist. You may also make a suggestion such as doing an errand, watching children, going for a walk, making something. Your suggestions will depend on how well you know the person and the person's circumstances. |

Note: You can use a combination of the statements above.

TRANSCRIPTS OF WEEKLY NEWSCASTS

| | WEEKLY NEWS STORIES | TIME |
|--|--|-------------|
| Introduction | Hi. This is Natasha Frakes. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of October 26 th . | 0:00 |
| NEWSCAST 1 <i>Justin Trudeau will soon return to his childhood home at 24 Sussex Drive</i> | <p>Justin Pierre James Trudeau was born on December 25th, 1971, in Ottawa. His father Pierre Elliot Trudeau, was partway through his term as prime minister and had married Justin's mother, Margaret, earlier that year. Margaret and Pierre Trudeau had two other children before separating in 1977.</p> <p>At 43, Trudeau will be the second youngest prime minister in Canadian history, after Joe Clark, who was 39, when he toppled Pierre Trudeau in 1979.</p> <p>When Trudeau returns to 24 Sussex Drive, the prime minister's official residence will again be home to three young children.</p> | 0:09 |
| NEWSCAST 2 <i>Calgary's 17th Avenue faces massive traffic disruptions ahead</i> | <p>The city plans to strip 17th Avenue between Macleod Trail and 14th Street SW and rebuild it. The city is holding information sessions for residents in advance of planned paving and sidewalk work.</p> <p>The project will also include improved lighting and wider sidewalks. The construction phase will impact pedestrians and drivers. It is a concern for some of the businesses on the strip as there will not be any compensation.</p> <p>The strip is one of Calgary's most visited urban areas, with pedestrians and cars. It is also the party place after the Flames win during the playoffs.</p> <p>Construction is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2016 and wrap up in late 2017.</p> | 1:01 |
| NEWSCAST 3 <i>Cancer patient waits months due to lack of radioactive dye</i> | <p>A Calgary woman with cancer has waited anxiously for months to find out whether she needs more chemotherapy because her scans have been postponed due to a lack of radioactive dye. The scan, which uses radioactive dye to identify the presence of cancer, will tell her doctors whether the previous six rounds of chemotherapy worked.</p> <p>She's been waiting since August, when her first appointment was cancelled. She says her appointment was bumped three</p> | 2:00 |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| | <p>times because there wasn't any radioactive dye available, but she finally got her scan on Tuesday after some of the material was flown in from Toronto.</p> <p>Despite the fact Malanchuk has been waiting since August for her appointment, Alberta Health Services says the machine that makes the radioactive product has only been broken since last Wednesday.</p> <p>The spokesperson for Alberta Health Services stated that every effort is being made to repair the machine and in the meantime it is getting the product from other provinces.</p> | |
|--|---|--|

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWS CAST 1

JUSTIN TRUDEAU WILL SOON RETURN TO HIS CHILDHOOD HOME AT 24 SUSSEX DRIVE

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2: LISTENING FOR SPECIFIC VOCABULARY

Now listen to the **first** news story for a second time. Fill in the blanks.

Justin Pierre James Trudeau was **born** on December 25th, 1971, in Ottawa. His **father** Pierre Elliot Trudeau, was partway through his term as prime minister and had **married** Justin's mother, Margaret, earlier that year. Margaret and Pierre Trudeau had two other **children** before separating in 1977.

At 43, Trudeau will be the second **youngest** prime minister in Canadian history, after Joe Clark, who was 39, when he toppled Pierre Trudeau in 1979.

When Trudeau returns to 24 Sussex Drive, the prime minister's official **residence** will again be home to three young children.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 3: CHECKING FOR COMPREHENSION

Instructions: Answer the questions below.

1. Justin Trudeau has two middle names – Pierre and James. It is common for your middle name(s) to be names of someone in your family. Based on the information provided, where does one of his middle names come from?
His father, Pierre.
2. What holiday was Justin born on?
 - a) Thanksgiving Day
 - b) Remembrance Day
 - c) **Christmas Day**
3. What year did Margaret and Pierre part ways? **1977**
4. Who was the youngest Prime Minister in Canada? **Joe Clark (39)**
5. **Toppled** above means: a) rolled around b) fell over c) **defeated**
6. What is the significance of 24 Sussex Drive? **It is the official residence of Canada's Prime Minister and the place where Justin Trudeau spent part of his childhood.**

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

What do you think of the outcome of the last election?

Responses will vary.

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWS CAST 2
CALGARY'S 17TH AVENUE FACES MASSIVE TRAFFIC DISRUPTIONS AHEAD

VOCABULARY BUILDING ACTIVITY 2: DEVELOPING KNOWLEDGE

Instructions: Match the words with the definitions provided.

| Answer | Word | Definition |
|--------|------------------|--|
| G | 1. to face | A. vehicles; cars; congestion |
| K | 2. massive | B. reconstruct; renovate; remodel |
| A | 3. traffic | C. walkway; pathway; pedway |
| M | 4. to strip | D. person on foot; walker; foot traffic |
| B | 5. to rebuild | E. worry; unease; anxiety |
| I | 6. residents | F. beforehand; ahead of time; previously |
| F | 7. in advance | G. encounter; accept; deal with |
| C | 8. sidewalk | H. building; assembly; creation |
| O | 9. impact | I. citizens; homeowners; tenants |
| L | 10. wider | J. payment; remuneration; money |
| D | 11. pedestrians | K. huge; enormous; large |
| B | 12. construction | L. broad; spread out; spacious |
| E | 13. concern | M. remove; leave bare; empty |
| J | 14. compensation | N. inner-city; downtown; city |
| N | 15. urban | O. affect; influence; have an effect on |

LISTENING ACTIVITY 3: LISTENING FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES

Now listen to the news story for a third time. Fill in the blanks.

The city plans to **strip** 17th Avenue between Macleod Trail and 14th Street SW and **rebuild** it. The city is holding information sessions for **residents** in advance of planned paving and sidewalk work.

The project will also include improved lighting and **wider** sidewalks. The construction phase will **impact** pedestrians and drivers. It is a concern for some of the businesses on the strip as there will not be any **compensation**.

The **strip** is one of Calgary's most visited **urban** areas, with pedestrians and cars. It is also the party place after the Flames win during the **playoffs**.

Construction is **scheduled** to begin in the spring of 2016 and wrap up in late 2017.

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 3

CANCER PATIENT WAITS MONTHS DUE TO LACK OF RADIOACTIVE DYE

VOCABULARY BUILDING ACTIVITY 1: CREATING AWARENESS

If you are uncertain about the meaning of the words above, look them up in a dictionary before listening to the news story.

| | |
|--------------|--|
| cancer | disease caused by abnormal cells or a malignant growth, or tumor |
| chemotherapy | a chemical treatment used to treat cancer |
| scans | an electromagnetic device used to examine a part of the body |
| postponed | delayed; rescheduled; put off until a later date |
| radioactive | emission of radiation or particles |

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2: CHECKING FOR COMPREHENSION

Instructions: Answer the questions below.

1. How long has this woman waited to find out whether or not she requires more chemotherapy?
Months / Since August
2. Why has she had to wait?
A lack of radioactive dye needed for the scan she requires.
A broken machine.
3. What is the purpose of the scan?
Identify the presence of cancer.
To see if her previous chemotherapy treatments worked.
4. How many times was her appointment delayed?
3 / three times
5. According to Alberta Health Services, how long has the machine been broken?
Since last Wednesday
6. In the meantime, where is Alberta Health Services getting the product from?
Other provinces.

FEEDBACK/COMMENTS

Thank you for downloading this lesson plan. If you have any comments or feedback, please feel free to email Deidre Lake at info@communication4integration.ca.